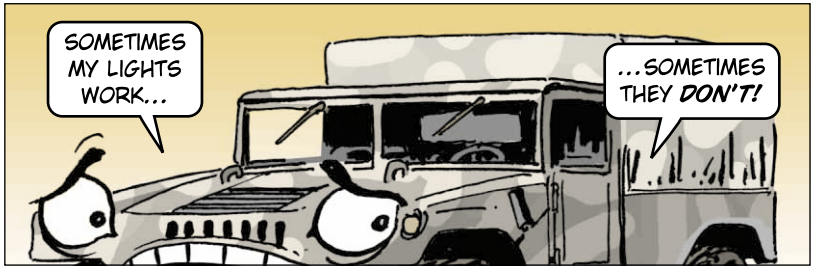
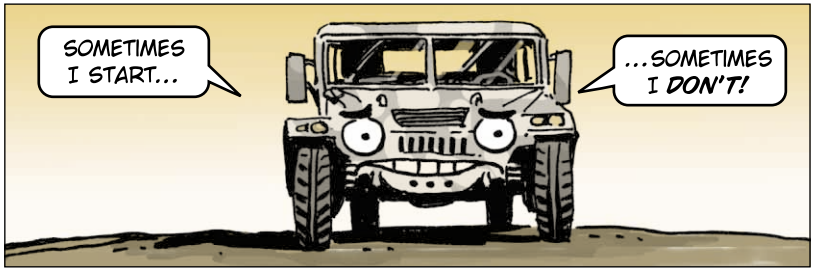
"Grounded" in the Real World





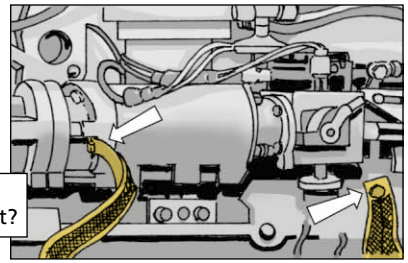
Sometimes the only thing wrong with a vehicle's electrical system is a poor ground. Consider that before you go chasing an electrical problem all over the vehicle.

Poor or bad connections can cause the vehicle's electrical system or components to malfunction or fail. That's because all connections must go to a ground for the system to work properly.

That means electricity will not flow right unless all ground connectors are solidly connected. Remember, there may be more than one ground in some circuits.

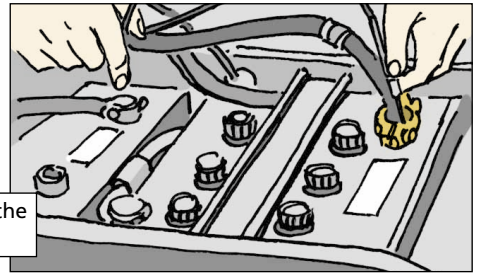
Here are a few basic things to remember when checking grounds:

❏ Always make sure that exposed electrical connections are corrosion-free and tight. That includes vehicle body grounds, component ground points and battery terminals.



Ground connections corrosion-free and tight?

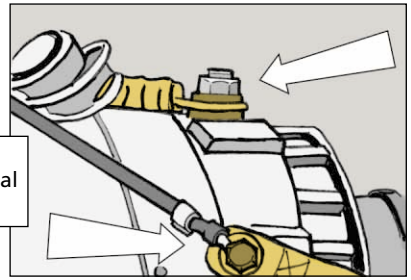
❏ Always check continuity to the battery negative terminal rather than to the vehicle body or the engine block. The battery terminal includes body and block connections in its circuitry.



Make continuity check at the negative battery terminal

If the continuity reading exceeds the resistance limit noted in your vehicle's -20-1 TM (for example, 0.5 ohm for HMMWVs), look for corroded or loose connections in the electrical system. Those corroded or loose connections will cause erratic operation in electrical components and eventual failure.

❏ Take the time at semiannual and annual PMCS to inspect and clean electrical connections. Repair or replace any that are damaged.



Inspect and clean electrical connections